Aspect: English Grammar
Topic: Interjection

Introduction

An interjection is a word or short phrase used to express sudden or strong feelings or emotions. It is not grammatically connected to the rest of the sentence — it stands alone or is inserted to show a reaction.

Simple definition for young learners:

An interjection is a "feeling word" we say when we're surprised, happy, scared, or excited. Example: Wow! That's amazing.

Expanded definition for higher levels:

In grammar, an interjection is an exclamatory word or phrase that conveys an emotion, reaction, or sudden feeling. It is usually followed by an exclamation mark (!) when expressing strong emotion, or a comma when the feeling is milder.
Interjections have no grammatical relationship with other parts of the sentence.

Types of Interjection

A. According to Function

1. **Interjections of Joy** – express happiness.
   Hurrah! Yay! Wow!
   Example: ***Yay!*** We won the match.
2. **Interjections of Surprise** – show shock or amazement.
   Oh! What! Wow!
   Example: ***What!*** You're leaving already?
3. **Interjections of Greeting** – used to say hello or goodbye.
   Hi! Hello! Hey! Goodbye!
   Example: ***Hey!*** Long time no see.
4. **Interjections of Sorrow** – express sadness or regret.
   Alas! Oh no! Ouch!
   Example: ***Alas!*** The hero has fallen.
5. **Interjections of Approval** – express agreement or admiration.
   Bravo! Well done! Great!
   Example: ***Bravo!*** You did an excellent job.
6. **Interjections of Attention** – call attention to something.
   Listen! Look! Behold! Example: ***Look!*** There's a rainbow.

B. According to Force of Emotion

1. **Strong Interjections** – express intense emotion (followed by !)
   Hurray! Ouch! Wow!
2. **Mild Interjections** – express less intense emotion (followed by a comma)
   Well, I suppose we could try.
   Oh, that's interesting.

How to Identify an Interjection

Teachers can guide students to check:

- Does the word or phrase stand alone and express an emotion or sudden reaction?
- Can it be removed without changing the grammar of the sentence?
- Is it often followed by a comma or exclamation mark?

Example:
Oops! I forgot my keys. ("Oops!" expresses realization)
Well, I think you're right. ("Well" softens the statement)

Usage of Interjection in Sentences

A. Beginning of a Sentence
Oh no! We missed the bus.

B. In the Middle of a Sentence
That was, wow, the best performance I've seen.

C. As a Response
"Did you hear the news?" – "Really?!"

Punctuation Rules

- Strong emotion → use ! (e.g., Ouch! That hurt.)
- Mild emotion → use a comma (e.g., Well, let's get started.)

Interjections can be capitalized even in mid-sentence for emphasis.

Engaging Classroom Activities

For Primary Level

- **Emotion Charades:** Teacher says an interjection (Wow! Ouch! Yay!) and students act it out.
- **Matching Game:** Match interjections with emojis or pictures.
- **Story Reactions:** Teacher reads a short story and students shout interjections at exciting parts.

For Junior Level

- **Dialogue Fill-in:** Students complete dialogues with fitting interjections.
- **Emotion Sorting:** Categorize interjections into joy, sorrow, surprise, etc.
- **Comic Strip Speech Bubbles:** Fill speech bubbles with suitable interjections.

For Senior Level

- **Creative Writing:** Write a short scene using at least 5 different interjections.
- **Literary Hunt:** Find interjections in literary texts and discuss their effect.
- **Formal vs. Informal Use:** Discuss when interjections are too casual for formal writing.

Exercises

A. Identify the interjections in the following sentences:

1. Wow! That's a big cake.
2. Ouch! I stepped on a pin.
3. Well, I suppose you're right.
4. Alas! The city has fallen.
5. Hey! Stop that.

B. Fill in the blanks with suitable interjections:

1. ___! We have a holiday tomorrow.
2. ___, that was a close call.
3. ___! What a beautiful painting.

C. Rewrite by adding interjections:

1. I won the competition.
2. You scared me.
3. We lost the match.

Teacher Tips for Engagement

- Encourage students to act out emotions to match interjections.
- Use real situations — e.g., sports wins, surprises, accidents.
- Bring comic strips or cartoons as visual examples.
- Highlight interjections in song lyrics or drama scripts for discussion.

Suggested Subtopics for Further Reading

- Interjection vs. Exclamation
- Interjections in Shakespeare & Literature
- Formal vs. Informal Register
- Interjections in Different Languages (e.g., "Ay!" in Spanish, "Eh!" in Canadian English)
- Interjections in Digital Communication (e.g., "OMG!", "LOL!")

Sample Lesson Flow (All Levels)

- Warm-up: Show surprised/happy/sad emoji faces and ask students to shout matching interjections.
- Presentation: Introduce meaning, types, and punctuation rules.
- Practice: Use matching games, fill-in-the-blanks, or short skits.
- Production: Write or act out a scene using interjections for different emotions.
- Review & Feedback: Recap meaning, types, and usage.